

oxygen indicated by red circles. Each compound occupies one page and data on over 250 compounds are contained in the atlas. Besides the crystallographic representation, each page contains the compound name, the molecular formula, a structural formula, and brief notes on the structural features and the pharmacological properties of the compound. Leading references to both the crystallographic and pharmacological literature are also cited. The range of compounds represented in this atlas include cholinergic agents, phenethylamines and catecholamines, H<sub>1</sub>- and H<sub>2</sub>-receptor agonists and antagonists, opiates, antidiarrhoeals, hallucinogenics, anticonvulsants and hypnotics, anti-inflammatory agents and various miscellaneous medicinal chemicals. It excludes such drugs as steroids and antibiotics.

On perusing this atlas – one does not read it – I was impressed by the beauty and simplicity of the drawings since many of the compounds represent a basic challenge to the synthetic organic chemist: what other ways can one combine atoms to hold the key functionalities in the correct orientation in space? Of course, such thoughts lead quickly to the realization that the biologically active conformation of a molecule need not be that found in the crystalline state. Nevertheless, this atlas will help the medicinal chemist to visualize more easily the three-dimensional character of the substances he deals with. The selection of compounds, which the authors declare was done very subjectively, contains examples of most of the more familiar compounds.

This atlas will probably only reach the shelves of institutional libraries as a reference work. That it is necessary is a tribute to the advances made in the area of both medicinal chemistry and crystallography. It is hoped that the time will soon come when such information as is contained in this book is made available on visual computer-graphics systems!

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### Books Received

*The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.*

**Structure reports for 1978. Vol. 44A. Metals and inorganic compounds.** Edited by J. TROTTER. Pp. vi + 387. Dordrecht: D. Reidel, 1980. Price Dfl 120.00. The most recent, and inclusive, review of *Structure Reports* was by J. Donohue [*Acta Cryst.* (1978), B34, 3847; (1979), A35, 346]. It may be noted here that Reidel Publishing Company took over the publication and sale of this, and all the other publications of the IUCr, previously handled by Bohn, Scheltema and Holkema, from 1 January 1980.

**Liquid crystals.** By S. CHANDRASEKHAR. Pp. x + 342. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1980. Price (soft cover) £8.95. This is the paperback edition of the book originally published in 1975 and reviewed then by G. W. Gray [*Acta Cryst.* (1975), A33, 251].

**The foundations of chemical kinetics.** By E. N. YEREMIN. Pp. 423. Moscow: MIR Publishers, 1980. Price £5.95 (from Central Books, London).

**Optical crystallography** (5th edition). By E. E. WAHLSTROM. Pp. 488. Chichester, England: John Wiley, 1979. Price £12.00. A review of this book, by J. H. Robertson, has been published in the March issue of *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A, page 333.